

I. Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (cancelled).

33. (currently amended): A device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis, comprising a tamper-evident storage structure configured for storing ~~said the biological sample, said the storage structure being suitable for at least partial digestion together with said biological sample for subsequent analysis~~ comprising:
a base sheet arranged so that the biological sample is positioned thereon, wherein a portion of the base sheet partially dissolves in a solution;
a polymeric sheet secured to the base sheet; and
a backing sheet releasably secured to the polymeric sheet,
wherein the storage structure allows at least partial digestion of the biological sample.
34. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein ~~said storage structure comprises sheets of material suitable for digestion together with said biological sample, between which said biological sample is stored~~ the base sheet dissolves in a solution.
35. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 33, wherein ~~said sheets are adapted to be adhered~~ the polymeric sheet is irreversibly adhered together with the base sheet.
36. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[43]]~~ 33, wherein print is on the reverse of ~~said the~~ the base sheet.

Claim 37. (cancelled).

38. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[43]]~~ 33 , wherein the base sheet is paper.
39. (currently amended): The device of claim 38, wherein the ~~cover sheet is coated with~~ polymeric sheet comprises a permanent adhesive ~~across its entire~~ on its surface, ~~and the portion of the cover sheet to which the backing sheet is not secured constitutes the hinged connection between the cover sheet and the base sheet.~~
40. (canceled).
41. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[43]]~~ 33, wherein the backing sheet is a release paper.
42. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[43]]~~ 33, wherein a bar code is printed on the reverse of ~~said~~ the base sheet.
43. (canceled).
44. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 46, wherein ~~said~~ the storage structure is configured to allow a hole punch to remove a portion of ~~said~~ the biological sample.
45. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein ~~said~~ the storage structure is ~~suitable for digestion~~ dissolves together with ~~said~~ a biological sample in a solution.
46. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein ~~said~~ the storage structure comprises a biological sample, and wherein the biological sample is animal or plant material.
47. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[43]]~~ 33 , wherein the ~~cover~~ polymeric sheet comprises a permanent adhesive on its surface, ~~and the portion of the cover sheet to~~

~~which the backing sheet is not secured constitutes the hinged connection between the cover sheet and the base sheet.~~

48. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[45]]~~ 33, wherein the solution is an alkali or phenol/chloroform solution.
49. (previously presented): The device of claim 48, wherein the solution is an alkali solution comprising sodium hydroxide.
50. (currently amended): The device of claim 46, wherein ~~said~~ the biological sample is animal material.
51. (previously presented): The device of claim 50, wherein the animal material is a bodily fluid.
52. (currently amended): The device of claim 46, wherein ~~said~~ the biological sample is plant material.
53. (canceled).
54. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[53]]~~ 33, wherein ~~said~~ the polymeric ~~film sheet~~ is a clear polypropylene film.
55. (currently amended): A device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis comprising a tamper-evident storage structure configured for storing ~~said~~ the biological sample, ~~wherein said the storage structure being suitable for at least partial digestion together with said biological sample for subsequent analysis, wherein said storage structure comprises:~~
 - (a) a base sheet arranged so that the biological sample may be positioned thereon, the base sheet comprising an absorbent material that is secured to a portion of a front surface of the base sheet;

- (b) a cover sheet configured to be secured to ~~said~~ the base sheet, ~~wherein said~~ the cover sheet ~~comprises~~ comprising a polymeric film; and
- (c) a backing sheet releasably secured to the surface of ~~said~~ the cover sheet facing ~~said~~ the base sheet,

wherein the storage structure allows at least partial digestion of the biological sample.

- 56. (currently amended): The device of claim 55, wherein ~~said~~ the cover sheet is adapted for adhesive securement to ~~said~~ the base sheet over at least a portion of their facing surfaces.
- 57. (currently amended): The device of claim 55, wherein ~~said~~ the polymeric film is a clear polypropylene film.
- 58. (previously presented): The device of claim 55, wherein the cover sheet is hingedly secured to the base sheet.
- 59. (new): The device of claim 55, wherein at least a portion of the base sheet partially dissolves in a solution.
- 60. (new): The device of claim 33, wherein the cover sheet is hingedly secured to the base sheet.